

February 11, 2010

WASHINGTON-Congressman Charlie Melancon (LA-03) announced today his 2010 nominees for the United States Service Academies. After a review of the interested applicants and with the recommendation of the Third Congressional District Advisory Board, the Congressman nominated the following eight young men and women for these prestigious schools:

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Abbey Akes of Berwick, LA (Berwick High School); Olivia Hill of St. Amant, LA (St. Amant High School); and Arthur Schexnayder of Ama, LA (Hahnville High School) have been nominated to attend the **United States Naval Academy at Annapolis**.

Francheska Charles of Parks, LA (Breux Bridge High School) and Megan Conques of Breux Bridge, LA (Breux Bridge High School) have been nominated for the **United States Military Academy at West Point**.

Barbara Maikell of Luling, LA (Hahnville High School) was nominated for the **United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs**.

Dylan Lovergne of Luling, LA (Hahnville High School) and Jaron Thurnau of Destrehan, LA (Destrehan High School) have been nominated to the **United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point**.

"I congratulate these eight young people from south Louisiana for taking the initiative to explore the opportunities a military education has to offer," said Rep. Melancon. "Supporting our country's future leaders by nominating them for the Military Service Academies is one of the most privileged responsibilities of a member of Congress, and I am proud to help these young people along their educational paths."

"I am also proud to nominate so many qualified young women to attend these Academies and become part of the next generation of military leaders. All of these students have demonstrated their excellence and aptitude, both through their academic lives and through their desire to serve our great nation, and their commitment to America should be commended."

Each applicant for a military academy nomination from Congressman Melancon must meet the following eligibility requirements as of July 1st of the year of admission:

- Age: Be at least 17 years old, but not have passed the 23rd birthday
- Citizenship: Must be a U.S. citizen
- Residence: Must reside within the boundaries of the 3rd District of Louisiana.
- Skill / Fitness: Must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academy.

Applicants from the Third Congressional District are interviewed and recommended by Academy Review Boards. These boards are comprised of local community members including: active duty, reserve and retired military officers; high school administrators and guidance counselors; and parents of Academy students and graduates. The board members are volunteers who recommend the top candidates for nomination based on objective and competitive criteria.

Although a nomination is required for admission into an academy, it is not a guarantee of acceptance. Each Military Academy will ultimately decide which candidates will be admitted.

Information about applying for nomination to the military service academies, including the application form, can be found on Congressman Melancon's website [here](#).

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